

A NEW SPECIES OF *COLAULON* ARNETT FROM TEXAS
(COLEOPTERA: ELATERIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Colaulon* is described from Texas Sand Hills.*Colaulon triplehornorum* Knull, NEW SPECIES.

TYPE MALE: robust, convex; deeply, densely punctured on both surfaces, punctures of dorsal surface larger than those on ventral surface; color light brown throughout.

Head with front flat, a raised area at insertion of antenna, clypeus truncate; densely deeply punctured, a recumbent white scale arising from each puncture; antenna short, reaching to about middle of pronotum, scape stout, second and third segments short, subequal in length, fourth to tenth segments transverse, wider than long, eleventh segment oval.

Pronotum slightly wider than long, widest about middle; anterior margin sinuate, median lobe broadly rounded; basal margin truncate; basal angles obtuse, lateral margin finely serrate; disk convex, a broad depression each side at base; surface densely, deeply punctured, punctures separated by less than their diameters, a small recumbent white scale arising from each puncture, a narrow denuded area in middle extending from near base to past middle. *Scutellum* heart-shaped, densely punctured, a recumbent scale arising from each puncture.

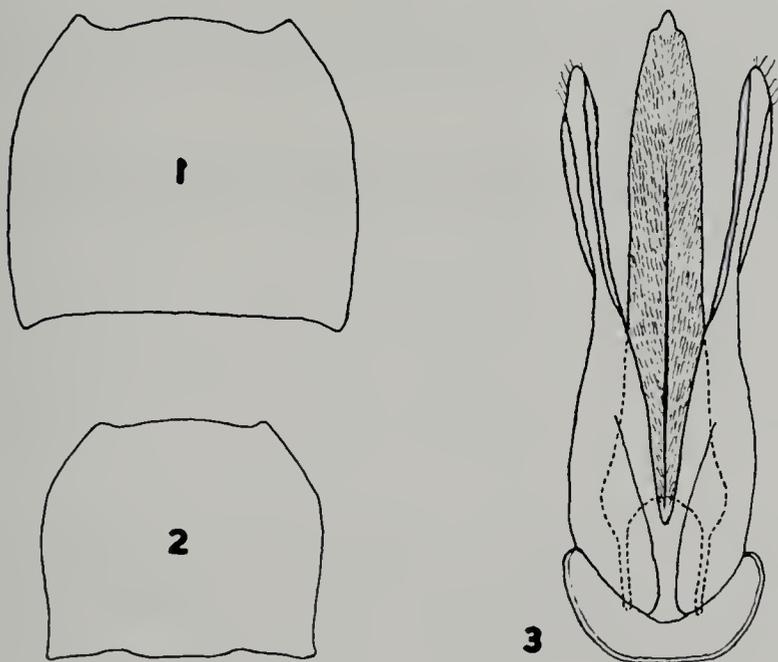


Fig. 1,3: *Colaulon triplehornorum* new species: 1) pronotum, 3) male genitalia (length 1.6mm).

Fig. 2: *Colaulon rectangularis* (Say), pronotum.

Elytra at base slightly narrower than base of pronotum, widest in front of middle, sides expanded in front of middle, then broadly converging to apices; disk convex, depressed at base; surface with rows of deep coarse punctures separated by alternate narrow and wide interspaces which are clothed with recumbent white scales arising from minute punctures, the narrow interspaces have 2 rows of scales and the wider interspaces have more irregularly placed scales. This gives the appearance of striae to the naked eye.

Beneath densely, coarsely punctured, a recumbent white scale arising from each puncture. Prosternum very convex, prosternal lobe declivous, broadly rounded, antennal grooves deep, extending to over half the length of prosternal suture, tarsal grooves lightly indicated on propleura. Abdomen convex, last sternite broadly rounded at apex. Legs finely punctured, a small recumbent scale arising from each puncture; tarsi pubescent.

Length 9.5 mm.; width 3.6 mm.

ALLOTYPE FEMALE: Outer antennal segments less transverse.

Type male, allotype and 13 paratypes collected on the sand dunes in Monahans Sand Hills State Park, Ward Co., Texas, 16-VII-1972, Wanda E., Bruce W., and Charles A. Triplehorn for whom I take pleasure in naming this species. Six other paratypes are from the same locality dated 8-VII-1968 by the same collectors. Dr. Triplehorn informed me that the specimens were collected on the surface of the sand after dark. None of the beetles came to blacklight.

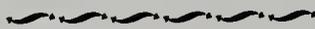
Type, allotype and paratypes in the Ohio State University Collection of Insects and Spiders, paratypes in collection of the author.

VARIATIONS: There is some variation in size of specimens from 9.3×3.6 to 11×3.8 mm. The background varies in color from light brown to dark brown.

This species is similar to *Colaulon rectangularis* (Say, 1825). It may be separated by the shape of the pronotum (Fig. 1). Also, the rows of elytral punctures in the new species are separated by alternate wide and narrow interspaces where in *rectangularis* the intervals are uniform in width.

LITERATURE CITED

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